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WK 50



Yes We  
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Parts Ex

**FREE DELIVERY**  
All Vehicles in Stock

## THE DOBLO

3.2M<sup>3</sup>

**FROM**  
**£5990**

**99**  
5yr Lease

Fiat Doblo

Airbag & Steel Bulkhead as Standard  
Supercharged Diesel 62mpg

	LEASE	H.P.
£5990...1.3	£99	£127
£6290...1.9	£119	£133
£6990...1.3 SX	£129	£148
£7290...1.9 SX	£139	£154

SX GETS 2x Side loading doors, ABS, CD, Front Fogs, Remote central locking &amp; Electric windows



**FROM**  
**£7690**

**149**  
4yr Lease

FIAT SCUDO

LEASE H.P.  
£8690...2.0JTD Dynamic SX...£159...£184  
Air Con...£350 Metallic Paint...£190  
Dynamic Gets: Elec Windows, Twin side loading doors, Front Fogs, ABS, 116bhp 6 doors, 3 seats, CD with steering wheel controls, Remote central locking, Airbags & Wheel trims Colour Coded Bumper and grill.

£7690...1.9 ELD...£149...£163



**£9990**

**FREE**  
A/C Elec Pack &  
Central Locking When  
you Lease me for just  
**£179**  
Per/Month

Renault Trafic

100PS 6Speed

**CHEAPEST IN THE UK**  
**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**

£9990

H.P. 60x£199

**VAT & RFL ONLY**  
**DEPOSIT 5yr H.P.**

**MERRY**  
**XMAS!**

**CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE 500**  
**VANS MUST GO THIS YEAR**

**ONLY £500**

+VAT DOWN 4 YEAR LEASE  
+Terminal Rental



**FROM**  
**£10490**

**189**  
4yr Lease

Citroen Relay

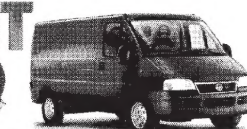
£10490...2.2 1800...£189...£225  
£10990...2.8 1800...£199...£233



**189**  
4yr Lease

**FIAT**  
Fiat Ducato  
2.2Multijet 100 psi SWB CD, RCL, ABS,  
EBD, wheel trims, Side load door, drivers  
airbag, elec windows  
MWB...From £10690

£9990 H.P. 60x£212

7.5M<sup>3</sup>

**FIAT**  
Fiat Ducato  
SWB 2.0JTD  
side loading door, electric windows &  
mirrors, 3 seats, Remote central  
locking, Airbag.

£8490 H.P. 60x£180



**FROM**  
**£9990**

**199**  
4yr Lease

Ingimex Titan Tipper 9'8" Alloy Body

With 3 yr Ingimex Warranty  
£9990...2.3 JTD 1500 116BHP...£212  
£10490...2.3 JTD 1500 116BHP...£225  
£10690...2.8 JTD 1500 129BHP...£229  
£10990...2.8 JTD 1500 129BHP...£233  
£11990...2.8 JTD 1800 129BHP...£254

H.P.

Full Range  
Available



Ranger Thunder  
4x4 D/Cab air con,  
RCL, alloys, ABS, elec win-  
dows, Leather, 6CD changer

£11990  
£249



Transit Connect  
T200 TDDi  
75PS

£8590  
£182



Transit 260  
SWB 2.0  
TDI 85PS

£10490  
£222



Transit 350  
LWB 2.4  
TDI 115PS

£15490  
£329



Vivaro, Primastar, Trafic  
Euro 4s Sportive facel  
115PS 6Speed SWB & LWB  
1.9 & 2.5 Available

£597 DOWN  
£199

## VOLKSWAGEN



Caddy  
C20  
1.9Tdi

£500 DOWN  
£159



Transporter  
T28  
1.9Tdi

£500 DOWN  
£189



Crafter  
LWB H/R  
2.5 TDi

£897 DOWN  
£299

## THE DOBLO IS BETTER VALUE



Iveco Daily  
35S12 VERY LWB  
FREE Electric Pack and CD Player

Why Not Upgrade  
to an S14 136BHP, ABS, ABD & EBD for £10 p/m extra



Ingimex Alloy Tipper  
3 Yr Warranty  
Iveco Daily 35S12 2450 Rear Wheel  
10'3" Alloy Ingimex Tipper  
Free electric windows & CD Player

£13695 £289



Renault Master LWB H/R  
2.5 TD 100PS

£12990 £276



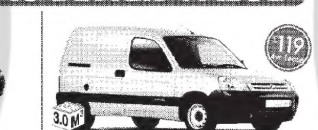
Vauxhall Astra van Diesel  
Envoy 1.7CDTi  
16V (ABS)  
£500 DOWN

£149



Vauxhall Astra van Diesel  
Envoy 1.7CDTi  
16V (ABS)  
£500 DOWN

£149



Fiat Doblo  
Berlingo  
or Partner  
£6590...1.6 HDi...£219...£139  
£6590...1.9 DLX...£219...£139

£119



Navara 4x4  
D/Cab  
SE 2.5TD...3+48 £259  
Outlaw 2.5TD...3+48 £279  
Aventura 2.5TD...3+48 £325

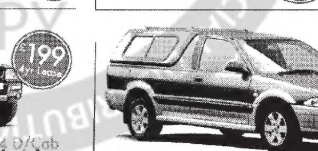


NEW Mitsubishi  
L200 4x4 D/Cab  
4Life 2.5TD...3+48 £229  
Warrior 2.5TD...3+48 £239  
Animal 2.5TD...3+48 £289



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2.5TD, immobiliser, alloys, front fogs,  
C/Lock/ABS, EBD, air con, elec win-  
dows, side stepwin airbags, colour  
coded bumpers & grill, CD  
Metallic paint...£190 Leather interior...£490

£12490 £286



PROTON JUMBUCK 1.5 GL  
50MPG, Mitsubishi Engine, Lotus developed  
ride and handling, 1.63M Load Length, Roll  
Bar, Remote Central Door Locking, Power  
Steering, Side Impact Bars, Load Lifter,  
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Metallic silver and blue available

£4990 H.P. 60x£99



Standard GRP truckback...£590

## 06 Plate Clearance Section

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Fiat Scudo 1.9ELD (Metallic Silver)...£7490  
Fiat Scudo 2.0JTD Dynamic (White)...£8490  
Renault Trafic SL27 DCi100...£9690  
Fiat Ducato 1500 2.3 Ingimex Alloy Tipper...£9990  
Fiat Ducato 1500 2.8 Ingimex Alloy Tipper...£10690



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ALL VEHICLES ARE PRE-REGISTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. IMAGES ARE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES. LEASE QUOTES ARE +VAT, WITH TERMINAL RENTAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. HIRE PURCHASE  
1 RHP = 1.07 PS



## MONEY &amp; LOANS

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with one of these Lenders?

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|------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|
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| ✓ Platform       | ✓ Capstone       | ✓ Citi    | ✓ London MC |
| ✓ Mortgages Plc  | ✓ Redstone       | ✓ Amber   | ✓ Preferred |
| ✓ Welcome        | ✓ First National | ✓ Rooftop | ✓ GMAC      |

OR ANY OTHER LENDER

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**Repossession Orders STOPPED!**  
Evicted already? We can help get your home back!

- ✓ Self employed
- ✓ Mortgage arrears
- ✓ Fast and friendly service

THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE SECURING OTHER DEBTS AGAINST YOUR HOME. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. THE OVERALL COST FOR COMPARISON IS 11.9% APR

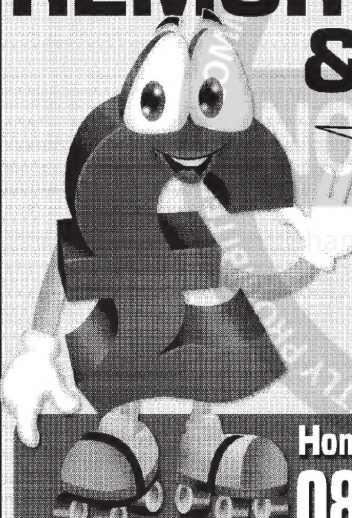
Call Bollin Finance today for an immediate decision...

**Bollin Finance Ltd**  
Sovereign House, London Road South,  
Ryton, Stockport SK7 1JH  
www.bollinfinance.co.uk

**0800 731 4015**

Actual rate available will depend upon your circumstances. Please ask for a personal illustration. Fees charged on completion between 0-10%, this is typically 4% of the loan. No loan - no fee!

## REMORTGAGES &amp; LOANS



Got a problem?  
We may be able to help.

- ✓ Fast & Friendly Service
- ✓ Mortgage Arrears/CCJ's
- ✓ Self Employed - No A/C's
- ✓ Repossession Order
- ✓ Over 65 Years Old
- ✓ Bankruptcy/IVA

Homeowners Call Free On

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Secured  
Loans  
typical  
variable  
rate  
12.9% APR

Think carefully before securing other debts against your home. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on a / your mortgage or any other debt secured on it. Actual rate will depend on your circumstances. Ask for a personalised illustration. Broker fee 0-10% may be charged on completion, typically 4%.

Re-mortgages  
The overall  
cost for  
comparison  
is 8.9% APR

**Ucan**  
have credit  
for a car  
whatever your credit history!

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†Credit subject to status and income. Credit only available on cars supplied by us.  
Cars may be recorded and used for training purposes.

**27.9% APR**  
TYPICAL

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...and have peace of mind by tonight

\* Award-winning Debt Counsellor Of The Year \*

\* 46,357 helped since 1996 \* As Seen On TV \*

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Tenants & HomeownersFAST PAYOUT, CCJ's  
DEFAULTS & ARREARSNO BROKER  
FEES**08707 662 445**Expressfinance **15.2% APR** Typicalfresh **INSTANT CASH IN  
TIME FOR XMAS**

Loans from **£500 to £15,000**  
Instant decisions no matter what  
your circumstance.

CCJ, default and arrears **No problem.****15.2% APR** **0800 881 8858** **24/7**[www.freshfinanceonline.com](http://www.freshfinanceonline.com)Debt Help!  
Let us help you...

Write off up to 75% of your debts  
and repay the balance over 5 years  
without a loan or interest.

In the past 5 years Spectrum have helped tens  
of thousands of people break free from debt.

Mr Ward - West Midlands  
Was paying £798 per month on debts of £98,000.  
After calling us he now pays an affordable £307  
per month and will be debt free in 60 months.

FREE PHONE  
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Conditions apply. Your ability to obtain credit will be affected in the short term.  
Debt write off applies where an IVA is suitable. Alternative solutions may be offered.

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and keep driving it!  
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CCJ's, Arrears,  
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DIFFERENTLY.

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and get £500 towards  
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**£4995** SAVE £3752  
from new SE list price\*



CASH PRICE £4995.  
25% DEPOSIT £1248.75. CREDIT £1746.25.  
INTEREST £1067.95. £60.07 OVER 60 MONTHS. CREDIT FACILITY  
FEE (ON 1ST PAYMENT) £100. TITLE DISCHARGE FEE (ON LAST  
PAYMENT) £50. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £6202.95. 10.9% APR

53 Peugeot 307 1.6 S only  
**£5999** SAVE £6131  
from new SE list price\*



CASH PRICE £5999.  
25% DEPOSIT £1498.75. CREDIT £4498.25. INTEREST £1269.75.  
£96.10 OVER 60 MONTHS. CREDIT FACILITY FEE (ON 1ST  
PAYMENT) £100. TITLE DISCHARGE FEE (ON LAST PAYMENT)  
£50. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £7414.75. 10.9% APR

06 Ford Focus C-Max 1.6 Zetec only  
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from new SE list price\*



CASH PRICE £9995.  
25% DEPOSIT £2498.75. CREDIT £7496.25.  
INTEREST £2117.55. £160.23 OVER 60 MONTHS. CREDIT FACILITY  
FEE (ON 1ST PAYMENT) £100. TITLE DISCHARGE FEE (ON LAST  
PAYMENT) £50. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £12262.55. 10.9% APR

53 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Club only  
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from new SE list price\*



CASH PRICE £6495.  
25% DEPOSIT £1623.75. CREDIT £4871.25.  
INTEREST £1375.95. £104.12 OVER 60 MONTHS. CREDIT FACILITY  
FEE (ON 1ST PAYMENT) £100. TITLE DISCHARGE FEE (ON LAST  
PAYMENT) £50. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £8202.95. 10.9% APR

...finance settled<sup>1</sup>, any old car as deposit.

## BRITAIN'S LEADING CAR HYPERMARKET

great cars, great choice, great prices

### OVER 300 SMALL CARS

Y-06 Citroen C2 from.....£4595	X-03 Peugeot 106 from.....£2850
Y-06 Citroen C3 from.....£4295	X-06 Renault Medea from.....£26450
X-03 Citroen Saxo from.....£2785	X-Y Renault Clio from.....£2750
W-06 Daihatsu Lanes from.....£2874	Y-06 Renault Clio from.....£3750
X-06 Daihatsu Marz from.....£2874	Y-06 Seat Ibiza from.....£3750
W-06 Fiat Panda from.....£4850	Y-06 Skoda Fabia from.....£3950
W-06 Fiat Punto from.....£2874	Y-06 Smart Car from.....£4150
X-06 Ford Fiesta from.....£2750	Y-06 Smart ForFour from.....£3550
Y-06 Ford Ka from.....£2550	X-06 Toyota Yaris from.....£3731
Q-06 Honda Jazz from.....£3750	X-06 Vauxhall Astra from.....£2950
Y-06 Mini from.....£7850	X-06 Vauxhall Corsa from.....£2874
X-06 Nissan Micra from.....£2750	Q-06 Vauxhall Meriva from.....£3550
Y-06 Nissan Micra from.....£3550	X-06 VW Polo from.....£3450

### OVER 300 MEDIUM CARS

Y-06 Alfa Romeo 147 from.....£4950	X-02 Renault Megane from.....£2874
X-06 Chrysler Neon from.....£2874	X-02 Rover 25 from.....£2750
X-06 Citroen Xsara from.....£2874	X-03 Rover 45 from.....£2950
Y-01 Citroen C4 from.....£3550	Y-06 Seat Altea from.....£3650
X-01 Fiat Bravo/Brevo from.....£2874	X-06 Seat Leon from.....£3950
Q-06 Fiat Shiva from.....£3450	Y-06 Skoda Octavia from.....£4950
X-06 Ford Focus from.....£3750	Q-06 Toyota Corolla from.....£2450
X-06 Honda Civic from.....£3850	X-06 Vauxhall Astra from.....£2950
Y-06 MG ZS from.....£3750	Q-06 Vauxhall Astra New Shape from.....£5750
W-06 Nissan Almera from.....£2874	X-06 Volvo S40 from.....£4250
X-06 Peugeot 307 from.....£3450	X-06 VW Beetle from.....£3550
Y-06 Peugeot 307 from.....£4250	X-06 VW Bora from.....£4250
Q-06 Renault Megane from.....£4750	X-06 VW Golf from.....£4250

### OVER 300 LARGE CARS

X-06 Chrysler PT Cruiser from.....£5450	Y-06 Peugeot 607 from.....£6550
Y-06 Citroen C5 from.....£3450	X-04 Rover 75 from.....£3850
X-03 Ford Mondeo from.....£2874	Y-06 Renault Laguna from.....£3550
Q-06 Ford Mondeo from.....£4650	X-03 Toyota Auris from.....£3550
Q-06 Honda Accord from.....£3850	X-03 Vauxhall Omega from.....£3750
Q-06 Mazda 6 from.....£5750	Y-06 Vauxhall Signum from.....£7450
Q-06 MG ZT from.....£4850	Y-06 VW Jetta from.....£2874
X-06 Nissan Primera from.....£2874	Q-06 VW Jetta from.....£6350
X-03 Peugeot 406 from.....£2874	X-06 VW Passat from.....£4150
Q-06 Peugeot 407 from.....£3450	X-06 Volvo S40/S60/S80 from.....£4850

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X-06 BMW 3 Series Saloon from.....£5970	X-06 Saab 9-3 Cabriolet from.....£3864
X-06 BMW 3 Series Coupe from.....£7350	Y-06 Saab 9-3-9-5 from.....£5495
X-06 BMW 5 Series from.....£5490	

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Q-06 Audi A4 Cabriolet from.....£16950	Q-06 Peugeot 206 GTI from.....£5550
Y-06 BMW 3 Series Coupe from.....£5995	Q-06 Peugeot 307 Cabriolet from.....£11595
Y-06 BMW 3 Series Cabriolet from.....£13450	Y-06 Peugeot 307 XSi from.....£5850
X-06 BMW Z3/24 from.....£12450	X-03 Peugeot 406 Coupe from.....£4940
Y-06 Chrysler Crossfire Coupe/Cabriolet from.....£14050	X-03 Renault Megane Cabriolet from.....£5670
Y-06 Citroen C2 VTR from.....£5950	Q-06 Renault Megane Cabriolet from.....£10950
Q-06 Citroen C3 Cabriolet from.....£5550	X-02 Renault Megane Coupe
X-06 Citroen C4 VTR Coupe from.....£2250	1.6 2.0 1.8i from.....£4077
X-03 Citroen Saxo VTR/VTS from.....£4077	X-06 Saab 9-3 Cabriolet from.....£3650
Y-06 Ford Fiesta ST from.....£10450	Y-06 Smart Roadster
Q-06 Ford Focus ST from.....£7250	Coupe/Cabriolet from.....£5750
X-06 Ford Mondeo	Y-06 Subaru Impreza WRX from.....£3850
ST24/ST200/ST220 from.....£4423	Y-06 Toyota Celica 1.8 VTI from.....£5750
Q-06 Ford Puma 1.7 from.....£4495	Y-06 Toyota MR2 Roadster from.....£7650
Q-06 Ford Street Ka from.....£7450	X-06 Vauxhall Astra Cabriolet from.....£7540
X-06 Honda Civic	X-06 Vauxhall Astra Coupe from.....£5520
Y-06 Honda S2000 from.....£13750	Y-06 Vauxhall Astra SRi from.....£4950
X-06 Hyundai Coupe 2.0 SE from.....£5250	Q-06 Vauxhall Astra SRi from.....£5950
X-06 Mazda MX6 from.....£3995	X-06 Vauxhall Corsa SRi from.....£3450
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W-02 MG ZS	X-02 Vauxhall Vectra SRi from.....£3450
Q-06 MG TF from.....£5450	Q-06 Vauxhall Vectra SRi from.....£5950
Q-06 Mini Cabriolet from.....£11950	Q-06 VW Beetle Cabriolet from.....£10750
Q-06 Mercedes	X-06 VW Golf Cabriolet from.....£5854
CLK/Coupe/Cabriolet from.....£10995	X-06 VW Golf GTI/4Motion from.....£5750
Q-06 Mercedes C Class Coupe from.....£13450	Y-06 Volvo C70 Cabriolet from.....£14500

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FULL RANGE OF DIESELS - Please call or come down for details

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Y-03 Ford Mondeo LWB.....£6490	Y-04 Mitsubishi Shogun Sport from.....£19550
X-06 Honda CRV from.....£3450	W-06 Mitsubishi Shogun Sport from.....£19550
W-06 Honda HRV from.....£4950	X-06 Mitsubishi Shogun Sport from.....£19550
W-06 Hyundai Santa Fe from.....£6250	W-06 Nissan Terrano SWB/LWB.....£5550
W-06 Isuzu Trooper 1.7.....£4940	Y-06 Nissan X-Trail from.....£7550
W-06 Jeep Cherokee from.....£5970	W-06 Suzuki Jimmy from.....£3350
W-06 Jeep Grand Cherokee from.....£8854	W-06 Suzuki Vitara from.....£3550
W-06 Kia Sportage from.....£4767	W-06 Suzuki Grand Vitara from.....£5650
W-06 Land Rover Discovery from.....£5935	W-06 Toyota Rav 4 from.....£5995
W-06 Land Rover Freelander from.....£4950	W-06 Toyota Land Cruiser.....£10950
Y-04 Lexus RX from.....£12455	W-03 Vauxhall Frontera from.....£4940

### OVER 100 MPVs

X-06 Audi A2 from.....£5950	X-06 Nissan Almera Tino from.....£4550
Q-06 Chevrolet Tacuma from.....£6950	X-06 Peugeot 806/807 from.....£5970
X-06 Chrysler Voyager from.....£6450	X-06 Renault Espace from.....£6250
X-06 Citroen Picasso from.....£3450	X-06 Renault Megane Scenic from.....£3450
X-06 Fiat Multipla from.....£3950	X-06 Seat Alhambra from.....£5550
Q-06 Ford Focus C-Max from.....£6750	X-06 Toyota Previa from.....£6834
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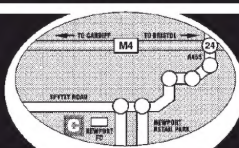
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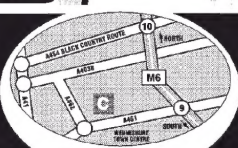
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# THE ASHES: Panesar hopes for call up after being ignored

## MONTY: MY PAIN AT SNUB

### It hurt, says spinner

**MONTY PANESAR** last night spoke of his bitter disappointment at being snubbed for the first two Ashes Tests.

The spin king was controversially overlooked in favour of Ashley Giles and Jimmy Anderson, who have taken just five wickets between them while being smashed for 565 runs.

Giles has failed to turn the ball all tour and dropped a crucial catch off Ricky Ponting.

So despite the batsmen's second innings collapse in Adelaide, it is most likely to be the bowling attack that changes for the third Test in Perth, leading to renewed calls for Panesar to be picked.

Panesar said: "It's flattering to see people in Australia - and England - wanting me to play."

*"Obviously from my point of view, I'm not putting pressure on myself."*

"I am just going to keep bowling the way I have done since I started in international cricket."

#### Focus

"I can obviously understand the balance of the side and the importance of it but from my point of view I'm disappointed that I didn't get a chance."

"All I can do is focus on the next Test match that is coming and try to get myself in contention for it."

"Giles obviously performed in the first and second Tests - he performed his role given to him."

"There have been a couple of unfortunate incidents for him - you know, him dropping the catch and maybe in the second innings with the bowling."

England's decision to leave out Panesar has been widely condemned and captain Andrew Flintoff is believed to have had a difference of opinion with coach Duncan Fletcher over who should play.

In the aftermath of the second Test defeat in Adelaide, Fletcher hinted it had been Flintoff who insisted Anderson should be kept in.

*Panesar, 24, is just as popular Down Under as he is back home, where he is in the final 10 shortlist for Sunday's BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.*

If he wins the award it would not only enhance his ever-growing cult



**SPARE PART:** Panesar had to carry the drinks in Adelaide

from **MARTIN ROGERS** in Perth

following - it would be a major source of embarrassment to Flintoff and Fletcher.

Panesar added: "It would be a great double to win it and be included for the third Test."

"I first heard my name mentioned a couple of months back for the

award - and getting into the last ten is very flattering indeed."

*"It would be nice and absolutely amazing if I do win it but it is up to the public back home. Hopefully we will wait and see on Sunday."*

Other nominees include golfer Darren Clarke, darts legend Phil Taylor plus boxers Joe Calzaghe and Ricky Hatton.



**HOGGARD:** Torrent of abuse

## Fans plan a Hoggard roasting

**MATTHEW HOGGARD** has been warned he faces an angry backlash in next week's third Test after questioning the intelligence of Aussie fans.

Hoggard lifted the lid on the hostile treatment England players receive Down Under and took a swipe at the local fans.

In an interview with the official Barmy Army magazine, Barmy Harmonies, he said: "Some of the (Aussie) fans are not the brightest of people but they are passionate about their cricket."

"They are always questioning your parentage and abusing your family so it is quite a hard place to

**EXCLUSIVE** from Martin Rogers in Perth

be down on the boundary." Hoggard is now likely to receive extra stick at Perth's WACA ground.

Warren Livingstone, founder of the Fanatics - Australia's equivalent of the Barmy Army, said: "If he has shown he can be put off his game by comments from the crowd he might find it happening more often."

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Apparently the playing of Texas Hold'em swept through the cast and crew of the movie like a virus. Michael Wilson, the movie's producer, personally trained the film's villain Le Chiffre (smoothly portrayed by Mads Mikkelsen) to play Hold'em, drawing on years of his personal experience and genuine love of the game. All nine of the opposing actor-players facing Bond across the poker table were individually schooled by legendary card expert Thomas Sanbrook. Carefully he demonstrated everything from betting techniques, knuckle juggling chips, how to examine hole cards without revealing them and developing an individual poker characteristic for each of the actor's on-screen personalities. Director Martin Campbell, who spent no less than three and a half weeks filming the card game, described it as the toughest scene in the film to capture. If you've seen any of the huge budget action sequences you'll begin to grasp the gravity of that statement.

"I needed it to be as compelling as any of the more obvious action takes!" Well, it certainly worked. Martin's parting word of advice to all poker players is "Never play against actors. After all it's their job to be able to create a credible poker face. And believe me they can. I lost every game I played against Daniel!"

This might explain why actors like Ben Affleck and Leonardo Di Caprio are naturally gifted poker players.

### A SPECIAL QUESTION

Q: Can you explain what a "straddle raise" is please? I keep hearing it being used and I can't figure out the context where it applies?

A: It's a difficult one to grasp if you're new to the game. If a player is under the gun (sitting just to left of the big blind, whose job it is to open the first round of betting) and decides to post a doubled-up bet before any cards are dealt that would be described as a straddle raise. Effectively the player concerned is committing himself, and anyone else at the table who wants to gamble with him, to a raised pot before he's even seen his hole cards. This is would normally be seen as a crazy move as you have lousy position and the odds are against you having a strong hand. However, experienced players will often do it at a new table to create the illusion of a "loose" persona. This draws the fish in for the shark to eat later.

Marbella Slim

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# Harrison vows to move up a weight

# SCOTT: I'LL

## Shamed ace axed by Warren

**DISGRACED** Scots boxer Scott Harrison has vowed to fight on despite facing financial ruin AND being dumped by his promoter Frank Warren.

Harrison relinquished his WBO featherweight crown when he pulled out of his title defence against Londoner Nicky Cook at London's ExCel Arena tomorrow night.

The 29-year-old was released from a Spanish prison only last month but passed a series of stringent medical tests to get the green light to fight on before his last minute withdrawal.

He failed to turn up for a scheduled weight check-in this week after apparently going AWOL and mysteriously piling on 4lbs - a crucial addition that made it virtually impossible for him to lose around 11lbs in order to make the 9st limit in time for tomorrow's bout.

His late pull-out left promoter Warren saying: "I have promoted some of the nicest guys in the world, some of the guys who are not so bad and some of the guys who are the biggest a\*\*\*\*\*s you can meet!

### Rubber

"Everyone has bent over backwards to help him. If I bent over any further, I could get a job as an Indian rubber man in Gerry Cottle's Circus!

"We are unhappy and seeking legal advice about this. There is going to be a lot of fall-out over it.

"Scott Harrison has now gone. As far as I am concerned, he is out of it and gone.

**"You cannot deal with things when people are not telling you the truth and you are not getting the information.**

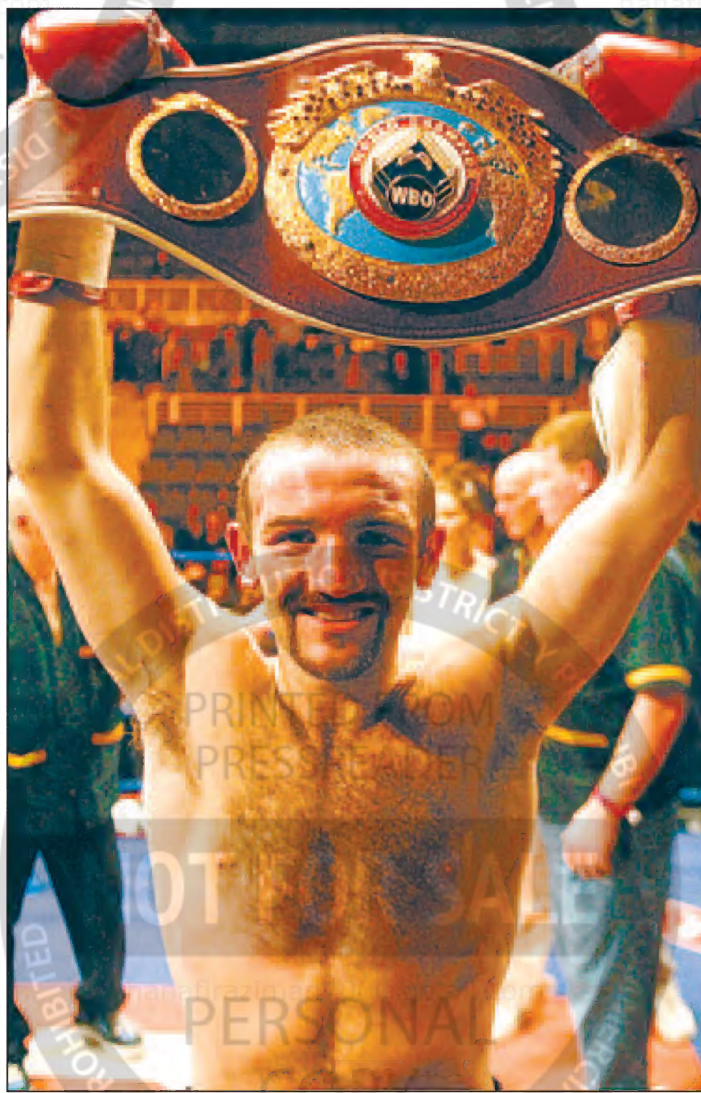
"I had no knowledge at all that Scott was pulling out of the fight and it is all pretty dreadful."

However, after speaking with Harrison and his father and trainer, Peter, the boxer's manager Barry Hughes insists a plan for his future is already mapped out.

Hughes said: "Scott, Peter Harrison and I have spoken at length, as you would expect.

"Scott has assured me he wants to fight on and the natural progression of that will be to campaign at 130lbs and super-featherweight.

"I am confident and equally determined to make sure this is not the end for Scott and he thinks the same way." He added:



IT'S SCOTT TO GO: Harrison with the world title belt he has had to give up

## SPORTWORD

- ACROSS**
1. .... Hunt, Formula One world champion in 1976 (5)
  4. .... Sanderson, women's javelin Olympic champion in 1984 (5)
  7. Valencia and Brazil midfielder previously who played for Saracens (5)
  8. Philippe .... famous French threequarter who played for Saracens (5)
  9. Jochen .... Formula One world champion in 1970 (5)
  10. .... Cantwell, captain of Manchester United's 1963 FA Cup winning team (4)
  11. Blackburn Rovers and New Zealand defender (5)
  14. Ian .... West Indies fast bowler who played for Leicestershire (6)
  15. Zola .... twice women's cross country world champion (4)
  18. .... Viren, Finnish athlete who won four Olympic gold medals (5)
  20. Jesse .... American athlete who won four Olympic gold medals in 1936 (5)
  21. Ferdinand, Manchester United and England defender (3)
  22. Ron .... Liverpool and Scotland half back who managed Tranmere Rovers (5)
  23. Anthony .... men's 100 metres butterfly Olympic champion in 1988 (5)

- DOWN**
1. .... Qually, cycling gold medalist at the 2000 Olympics (5)
  2. The ...., nickname of Rotherham United (7)
  3. .... Fitzpatrick, former All Blacks hooker and captain (4)
  4. Country who reached football's World Cup semi-finals in 2002 (6)
  5. Minster .... St Leger winner in 1989 (3)
  6. .... Villa, Premiership club (5)
  12. Liverpool, Southampton and Newcastle manager (7)
  13. Featherstone ...., rugby league team (6)
  14. .... Casper, American Ryder Cup golfer and captain (5)
  16. .... Hare, Nottingham, Leicester and England rugby full back (5)
  17. Rupert ...., former Wales scrum half (4)
  19. Venue of the Belgian Grand Prix (3)

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 77 for yesterday's answers.



## 5 FOR FUN

1. Which Manchester United player missed a penalty when they lost 1-0 to Celtic, in a recent Champions' League match?
2. Which Arsenal forward switched on the Christmas lights in Newbury, his home town, this year?
3. At what boxing weight is Enzo Macarinielli of Wales, the current WBU champion?
4. Which rugby league club in 1996, ended Wigan's nine year and 43 match unbeaten run in the Challenge Cup?
5. Which Brazilian F1 driver had 164 races before his first grand prix victory?

ANSWERS: See Page 77



after being forced to surrender his title

# CARRY ON SCRAPPING



by KEVIN FRANCIS

"Scott has always found it hard to make the nine-stone weight limit and he has paid for his spell in prison in Spain.

"That cost us nearly six weeks of training camp and meant Scott's weight loss would have to be concentrated inside a three-week period.

"Ultimately, as Scott's manager, I have to put the safety of my fighter first. Unfortunately, we had to call it off, but I will be standing by Scott."

The controversial Harrison, who is facing charges of stealing a car and assaulting a police officer arising out of incidents in Malaga where he spent six weeks in prison before being granted bail, is also threatened with bankruptcy.

He owes the Inland Revenue £83,000 and was only spared a bankruptcy ruling last week when it was agreed he would repay the bill out of his rumoured £250,000 fight fee for meeting Cook.

He is also due to stand trial on an assault charge in his native Glasgow in February.

Warren, meanwhile, has been left to pick up the pieces following Harrison's withdrawal and said: "We didn't have the courtesy of a call.

## Mental

"We were made aware of the weight issue problem but that has always been a problem with Scott Harrison.

"I am disappointed. The first I heard about the weight problem was on Monday and it was not put to me in such a way as to make me feel the fight was in jeopardy."

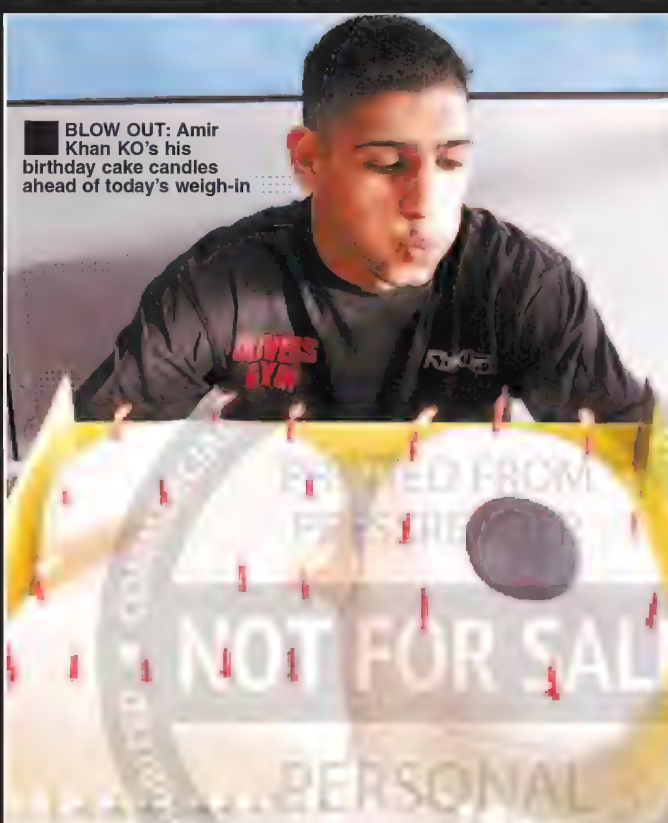
The heavyweight rematch between Audley Harrison and Danny Williams will now top the bill, with Warren saying: "There is now real pressure on them because they have to deliver.

"There will be no excuses. They have both said they are in the best mental state they have ever been so now they have to show it."



WARREN: Seeking legal advice

■ BLOW OUT: Amir Khan KO's his birthday cake candles ahead of today's weigh-in



## KHAN TITLE TILT

AMIR KHAN celebrates his 20th birthday today by weighing-in for his first-ever title fight.

Khan's scheduled eight-round bout with Frenchman Rachid Drilzane at London's ExCel Arena tomorrow night has now been upgraded to a 10-rounder for the vacant IBF Inter-continental light-welterweight belt.

The move comes as part of a reorganised bill following the withdrawal of WBO world featherweight champion Scott Harrison. Buoyant Bolton boy Khan said: "The rules say you

■ by KEVIN FRANCIS

can't fight for a title like this until you're 20 and I'm doing it one day after my birthday. "It's only my 10th pro fight and I just can't believe I am in the ring going for a title."

## Save

Khan, who won the light-weight silver medal at the Athens Olympics, added: "I have fought 10 rounds before in the gym and I will just have to adjust the way I fight because it is longer than I was expecting. "I don't think you will see

me rushing out. I will take it steady so I can save my stamina in order to be able to go the whole distance."

Trainer Oliver Harrison and Khan's father Shah were involved in talks with promoter Frank Warren following Harrison's exit.

Khan said: "I had no hesitation. After all, it's something of a dream come true for me to go for a title so soon."

Harrison said: "He's ready for this.

"He's been training well and I have no concerns about him doing 10 rounds."

## TEXT MANIACS



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□ to real lady j u know all about consistency Right consistently not winning the prem lge ha ha ps still a fluke champs lge win. ooh aah □ take the hint lady J ur a boring f\*\*\* who constantly seeks attention. s\*\* off n do us a favour. hwic yeah.

sally farnworth □ Man united wll always b the best team. As 4 u southern monkeys, chelsea will always liv in our shadow. ant widnes □ To red lee mcr. What about rvn, veron, ferdinand, rooney, ronaldo, carrick how much did i n spend on them to buy history.

ANON □ To lydia efc, we r not a little man utd feeder club like u soft girl, forever in r shadow. rushie4 □ did i hear real lady j say that its all about consistency? u support liverpool the most inconsistent team in league! jdogg, st helens □ ladyj ur txts r brill u sounda real babe. even ur fake efc txts r top. we luv ya gurl. x. NYKHLFC-N THOMMO LFC □ dear santa please can i hav ladyj in my xmas stocking this year az she izza tot txt babe. i wear fishnets so be careful of da holes.xx. TOM HUYNON REDS □ y r u still txting in ladyj. ur no kopite r u? u even thought lee was backing u up n it was a p\*\*\* take. get real numpdy deeder smudger/darren lfc

□ moyes as done a gr8 job at everton bt his job is done now hes not the right man to take us any further. Curbishley wld be great! josh □ To susie lufc, worry about going down soft a\*\*\*+ur pathetic gates,not the 5times euro champs. Sutcliffe, yorks □ to wallace thfc. 18stone hairy a\*\*\*\* toilet cleaner eh? that sounds just like it could be all you spurs fans wives to me as they all look like that. ANON □ from the toon □ cobbler we have nowt against gays in fact we have a large gay community here in the north east its called sunderland a/c. ANON □ O ALL U LFC □ PLANX LEAVE LADY J ALONE. SHE IS A TOP FOOTY BABE N I WUD SUPPT AFC IF I WAS A SHADY PIKEY SCOUSER. DIGNITY ISNT IT. KEIRON MUFC □ TA 2 MY BOYFRIENDZ M8 4 LETTING ME HAV HIZ SEASON TKT SEAT AT OLD TRAFF ON WED NITE. MUFC FANZ... I WAS LOUDA DAN EWES ON ME OWN IN UR END. JOANNE EFC □ DONT WORRY LFC N MUFC MUGZ DA GOONERS WILL COME GOOD. WE WILL WALK AWAY WIV EVRYTING GOING. YESS. LADYJ N LEE RUNCORN □ great move gallas you've left the champions to join uefa cup hopefuls! i bet left back looks pretty good now! Ha.ha. ryski

## Reddin gets England boot

FITNESS coach Dave Reddin has joined Andy Robinson in being blamed for England's dire recent showings.

Reddin, who was part of England's World Cup-winning set-up in 2003, was sacked last night by the RFU after eight years in the job.

## Clear

His departure comes barely a week after head coach Robinson left his post following eight defeats in nine Tests.

The 37-year-old made it clear he was unhappy with the decision to force him out.

He said: "Although the

■ by SAM PETERS

RFU have explained the rationale for their decision to make my role redundant I am disappointed to be leaving.

"It has been a great privilege to have been involved with England over the past eight years and almost 100 test matches."

RFU director of rugby Rob Andrew said: "Dave goes with our thanks and best wishes for the future.

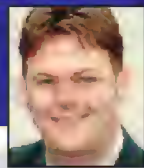
"I'm sure he will continue to make a major contribution to elite sport in this country."





# IT'S A DANNY OLD GAME

By DANNY FULLBROOK, CHIEF FOOTBALL WRITER



## BT have hard act to beat

BT's entry into the world of live Premiership games can only benefit the armchair fan.

Sky's coverage of the Premiership for the last 14 years has been superb and a lot is owed to them for the explosion in English football.

But a monopoly is never a good thing, which is why it's good to see Chelsea and Manchester United go head-to-head.

The new TV channel, BT Vision, has joined up with Irish firm Setanta to offer an alternate package.

### Live

As a result, 75 per cent of the 380 Premiership matches are being shown in full on BT Vision next season, either live or after 10pm on matchday.

With the new TV deal negotiated by Richard Scudamore starting next year, BT and Setanta have three years to try to match Sky's excellence.

It is a huge challenge but if they can pull it off then the battle for the prized Premiership package can only help drive prices down and make football cheaper for the fans to watch.

# Blame Fergie for Euro heartache

## GOLDEN GENERATION WASTED BY SIR ALEX

**PATRICE EVRA** paid **Paul Scholes** a huge compliment this week by comparing him to **Zinedine Zidane**.

The French full-back is not the first player to find himself incredibly impressed by the elegant Manchester United midfielder.

But let's get it straight ... Scholes is no Zidane and Sir Alex Ferguson has to take some of the blame.

There is no doubt Scholes has proved over the last decade that he has been one of the best midfielders in Europe.

But he has not produced when it has mattered most, right at the pinnacle of the game.

There have been no magical goals to set Champions League or World Cup finals alight, something Zidane can look back on in his career. In fact, the only time

United have reached the Champions League Final in 1999 Scholes, alongside Roy Keane, was famously suspended.

But the real crime is that during his career, which is enjoying something of a renaissance, United have only reached the European Cup Final once.

Scholes' failure in the international arena is partly down to himself, his former England team-mates and Sven Goran Eriksson in particular for playing him out of position.

### Stamp

But when you look at United and their golden generation of home-grown players - which was coveted the world over - Fergie is the man to blame.

In response to Peter Kenyon's claims at Chelsea that they would soon become the biggest brand in football, the great Scot recently stated that a measure of a club is how they perform in Europe.

But Fergie has wasted a generation of stars.

The Treble of 1999 should have been a springboard for European dominance as United looked equipped to stamp their authority all over the continent with the likes of Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Roy Keane and David Beckham shining.

But Fergie let chance after chance slip, with only one further semi-final spot to crow about, and even then they lost to Bayer Leverkusen.

Last year they suffered the humiliation of not even making the knockout stages.

### Fierce

Prior to that there were limp exits at the hands of Real Madrid, AC Milan and, most painfully, Jose Mourinho's Porto, who were beatable.

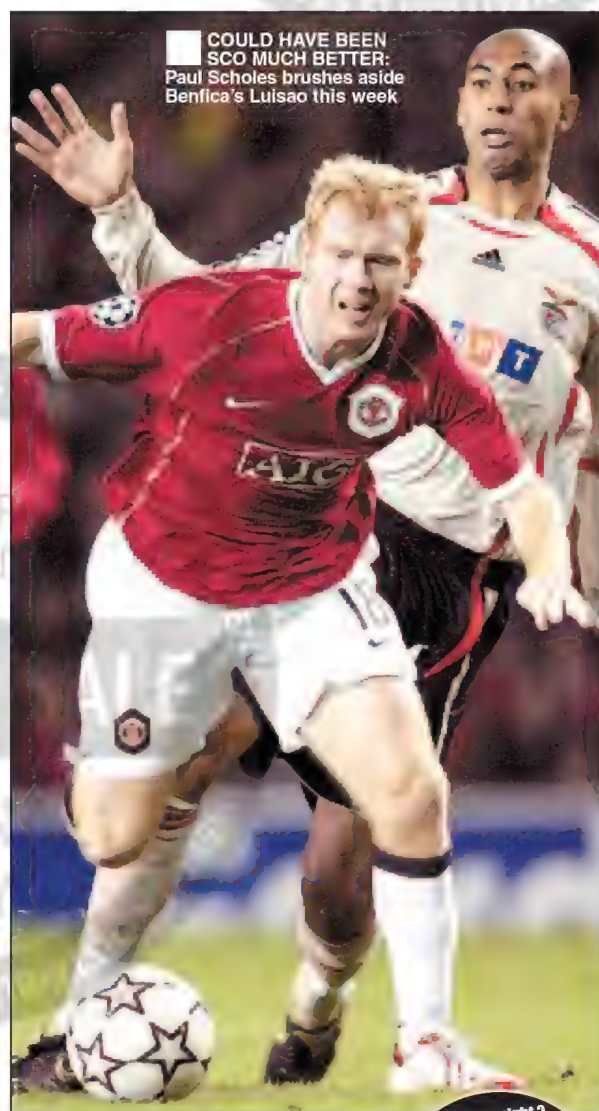
Maybe, just maybe, though, this season we might see a difference.

First of all in Wayne Rooney, Louis Saha and Cristiano Ronaldo they have an attacking force to match that of Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke, Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Secondly, as in 1999, they are in a fierce title race which looks set to go to the wire.

The constant pressure of having to battle Arsenal for top spot in the Premiership was what helped keep United on top of their game that season.

There have been blips in



**COULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH BETTER:** Paul Scholes brushes aside Benfica's Luisao this week

the group stages this season but if Fergie gets those ironed out, there is no reason why United cannot go all the way.

Fergie was right when he said that with four English teams through to the knockout stages of the Champions League, there is a fantastic chance for a

Premiership side to win Europe's top honour.

United's presence at the top of the Premiership will prove a spur to Chelsea, who know they need to conquer Europe to be considered among the real elite of continental football. Let battle commence.

Is Danny right? Let him know your views. Text **NSDANNY** followed by a space then your views to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus normal operator rate. Or send him an e-mail to [danny.fullbrook@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:danny.fullbrook@dailystar.co.uk)

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# SOCCER SHOTS

■ **YEOVIL** captain Paul Terry, brother of England captain John, will miss the rest of the season with a knee ligament injury. Midfielder Terry sustained the injury in Saturday's 3-2 defeat at Rotherham.

■ **LEEDS** boss Dennis Wise has asked Sheffield United if he can sign Paul Ince on loan. Wise is keen to improve his side's creative options and has put the winger at the top of his wanted list.

■ **GARY KELLY** is wanted by his hometown club Drogheda when the veteran Republic of Ireland international retires from English football next summer. Kelly, 32, has spent 16 years at Leeds and his contract expires at the end of the season.

■ **MORITZ VOLZ** will be awarded an extended contract with Fulham in January. His current deal is due to end next summer, but Volz has been in talks over a new two-year agreement to stay at Craven Cottage and is now agreeing the final terms with manager Chris Coleman.

■ **BILLY DAVIES** of Derby, John Sheridan of Oldham and Walsall's Richard Money have been named Coca-Cola Managers of the Month for November in the Coca-Cola Championship, League One and League Two respectively.

■ **AUSTRIAN** midfielder Paul Scharner will miss Wigan's game against Arsenal next Wednesday after collecting his fifth booking in the 2-0 win at West Ham.

■ **HUDDERSFIELD** are planning a new move for MK Dons highly-rated full-back Dean Lewington. The Terriers tried to sign him in the summer, but Lewington opted to stay with the Dons in order to work with new manager Martin Allen.

■ **PLYMOUTH** have failed with a £300,000 bid for Matt Jarvis in a second attempt to land the Gillingham striker.

■ **DAVID DUNN** is ready for a Christmas return to bolster Steve Bruce's promotion bid at Birmingham. Former Blackburn midfielder Dunn is two weeks away from a comeback for the Championship leaders after missing the last two months with hamstring and calf injuries.

■ **PORTSMOUTH** striker Lomano LuaLua has been ruled out for a further two weeks after scans revealed he has torn a muscle in his thigh.

■ **MARK DAVIES** is targeting a New Year comeback for Wolves after returning to first-team training. Midfielder Davies has been out of action all season, after suffering a cartilage injury in a pre-season friendly with Aston Villa.

■ **BARNESLEY** defender Rob Atkinson and striker Nathan Joynes have had their loan spells at Conference side Halifax extended.

## SERIOUSLY football

## French ace predicts goal rush

# SIB: WE'VE TOONED IT AROUND

**IN-FORM** Antoine Sibierski last night claimed Newcastle have solved the goal-scoring problems which had left them facing a relegation dogfight.

And the Toon's top scorer predicts Wednesday night's thrilling 3-2 win over Reading won't be the last time the goals are flowing for the Geordies.

Glenn Roeder's side went into that fixture with a miserly nine goals from their opening 14 league games.

Fans feared the worst when the visitors cancelled out Sibierski's opener to lead 2-1 at half-time, but Newcastle belatedly rediscovered their scoring touch to hit back through Obafemi Martins' first Premiership goal on home soil and Emre's late winner, extending their unbeaten record in all competitions to seven games.

Sibierski has emerged as the Toon's surprise hitman with six goals so far, more than he managed in any one season at Manchester City.

### Quality

And he's confident that opposition nets will continue to bulge – even without the injured Michael Owen and Shola Ameobi.

**He said: "We've had a bad period but we're playing better, winning more games and scoring more goals."**

"Reading could prove a real turning point.

"We showed a lot of character and that comeback will help us going into the next few games. It has given us a lot of confidence. "I have no worries about the goals as there is enough quality in this team to create and convert chances."

Sibierski, 32, is having one of the best spells of his career after a miserable final season with City and he's relishing the new lease of life he's had under Roeder. The Frenchman

### ■ by IAN MURTAGH

added: "He was the only one to believe in me and now I'm having my most enjoyable period. I have never been as happy as I am here.

**"I've scored six goals and am delighted to be top scorer because scoring goals is what I was brought here for."**

"I never scored more than five at City and have already beaten that.

"My best haul was 23 at Nantes and I will settle for matching that."

Despite seeing his side notch up their fourth league win of the season, Roeder must decide whether to keep faith in Celestine Babayaro who came in for some fierce stick from fans after a nightmare display.

### Fans

But team-mate Nolbero Solano has appealed to the Toon Army to go easy on the former Chelsea defender.

He said: "I hope they give him a better reception next time because we are all in this together."

"I love our fans but that wasn't good for Celestine. They should understand he has just come back from injury."



**BIG HIT:** Antoine Sibierski celebrates his goal against Reading

## Kitson's new KO

■ by SCOTT COLEMAN

READING striker Dave Kitson's injury jinx has struck again after he was ruled out for six weeks following an appendix operation.

Kitson has been missing since damaging his knee on the opening day of the season and just as he was recovering from that injury he strained a hamstring in training.

But on Wednesday he was admitted to Reading's Royal Berkshire Hospital where he had surgery which will keep him out until the end of January.

## Kevin in court bid

■ by GEORGE SCOTT

FORMER Leeds boss Kevin Blackwell has launched a High Court bid for compensation from the Championship club.

Blackwell was sacked by Ken Bates in September with almost three years left on his contract.

The League Managers' Association claim Blackwell was dismissed for comments made to the media about financial matters at Elland Road.

An LMA statement said: "Kevin Blackwell and the LMA are very disappointed that they have been forced into this position."

## Cott it by George

■ by RALPH ELLIS

DAVID COTTERILL has one regret about his first Premiership goal – his middle name secret is out!

The Wigan winger's Manchester United-dad dad gave him the full name David Rhys George Best Cotterill – and now everybody knows after his goal against West Ham.

Cotterill, 19, Paul Jewell's £2m signing from Bristol City, admitted: "All the lads know, and call me 'Bestie', but I've always tried to keep it quiet."

"I've had quite a bit of stick over the years when people find out."

## Fern: I'm the one

■ by PETER WHITE

PORTUGUESE midfielder Manuel Fernandes will be given his last chance to seal a permanent move to Portsmouth when he lines up against Everton at Fratton Park tomorrow.

Fernandes will cover for suspended countryman Pedro this week with Pompey boss Harry Redknapp unsure whether to make his loan spell a permanent move.

Benfica are demanding a £7m fee and it is unlikely Pompey will meet that – but Redknapp said: "He has the potential to become a top player."

## Pards the Ice man

ALAN PARDEW last night warned his under-performing stars that his patience with them is rapidly running out.

West Ham's boss is preparing wholesale changes before tomorrow's tough trip to Bolton as he views the wreckage of Wednesday's dreadful display against Wigan.

That could even mean the axe for skipper Nigel Reo-Coker who was among fans' targets for his slump in form since

by RALPH ELLIS

Hammers' turned away a bid from Arsenal.

Pardey, who knows his own neck is on the block after the club's £85million takeover, wants to pass the pressure to his dressing room.

He warned: "I have been very loyal to the tried and trusted players, but whether I stay loyal will be a decision I have to make before Saturday."

Icelandic bank boss Bjorgolfur Gudmundsson, who put up the cash to back his friend Eggert Magnusson's buy-out, was at Upton Park for the first time on Wednesday and couldn't have been impressed.

And Pardey, who faces a massive month of pressure, admitted: "If my players didn't already realise they were in a relegation fight then they should know now."



PARDEW: Warnings



# City takeover talks

MANCHESTER CITY last night became the latest club to be linked to a massive takeover bid.

City chairman John Wardle is reportedly ready to step down after his club opened talks over a £70m takeover by a mystery investor.

Negotiations are at an early stage but Wardle confirmed yesterday he and business partner David Makin, the club's majority shareholders, are prepared to hand over control.

## Hands

The Premiership elite have become prime targets for investors with Chelsea, Manchester United, Aston Villa, Portsmouth and West Ham all now in foreign hands.

Only this week Liverpool were linked with a massive £450m takeover bid from Dubai billionaire Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al

■ by IAN WHITTELL

Maktoum's Dubai International Capital investment company.

But City would not say whether their investors are from abroad.

Billionaire mobile phone entrepreneur John Caudwell is one name that has been in the frame.

Wardle said: "As far as I'm concerned, anyone who can come into the club and improve things, we would welcome with open arms."

"We are talking now to a party. It's the early stages but hopefully something will come of it."

"We are prepared to pass the baton and let them take the club forward."

"The major thing for David and myself is that this football club moves forward – and back into the honours."

"We do recognise that the club

needs investment and we have been working hard to bring investment in."

Lifelong City fans Wardle and Makin, multi-millionaires from their sportswear empire JD Sports, own just under 30 per cent of the Premiership outfit.

And between them, the pair have gifted City just under £20m worth of interest-free loans.

## Rebel

City have admitted for the first time that they will reluctantly listen to offers for transfer rebel Sylvain Distin in the January window.

But Wardle insisted boss Stuart Pearce will be consulted before City cash in on the French centre-half.

Distin was a serious summer transfer target for Middlesbrough and had talks with Gareth Southgate before a move collapsed over personal terms.

## SERIOUSLY football CHAMPIONS



**FOCUSED:**  
Manchester United can go all the way in Europe says fired-up captain Gary Neville

## ROAD TO ATHENS GLORY

MANCHESTER UNITED could face Real Madrid and Liverpool could be pitted against Celtic in the draw for the next stage of the Champions League.

Group winners will be drawn against a runner-up but can't face a team from their qualifying group or a side from the same country. For example, Chelsea CANNOT play Barcelona.

The draw is a week today in Nyon, Switzerland.

**Knockout dates – last 16:** Feb 20-21 and Mar 6-7; **quarter-finals:**

Apr 3-4 and Apr 10-11; **semi-finals:** Apr 24-25 and May 1-2; **final** (Athens): May 23.

Group winners	Runners-up
CHELSEA	Barcelona
Bayern Munich	Inter Milan
LIVERPOOL	PSV Eindhoven
Valencia	Roma
Lyon	Real Madrid
MAN UNITED	CELTIC
ARSENAL	Porto
AC Milan	Lille

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# LEAGUE: Skipper sees nothing to fear



# NEW: WE'RE READY FOR FINAL FLING

GARY NEVILLE has ordered his Manchester United team-mates to make up for last season's Champions League disaster by going all the way this time.

Neville reckons Sir Alex Ferguson's troops have nothing to fear – even though they face a potential last 16 date with Euro heavyweights Real Madrid or Barcelona.

United's 3-1 victory over Benfica on Wednesday made up for the hurt of 12 months ago when the Portuguese club denied the Red Devils a place in the knockout stages.

And Neville, 31, sees no reason why United cannot go all the way to the final in Athens next May. The United skipper said: "We're in a cup competition, three ties before a final."

"All the teams that are in there will think they've got a chance of winning it. A little bit of luck, form, taking your chances, anything can happen."

Neville is delighted to put Europe on the back-burner until February and concentrate on extending United's lead at the top of the Premiership.

## Stupid

Victory in tomorrow's Old Trafford showdown with Manchester City would extend their lead to nine points over Chelsea, who don't play until Sunday.

But Neville is still clearly annoyed United came close to blowing it in Europe once again, even though they made a flying start.

He added: "To win the first three games and then be in that position on the final day was stupid."

"It was unacceptable last year and, with the teams that have qualified, that's where this team needs to

by NEIL JOHNSTON

be – playing against those big teams.

"Looking at the teams that have qualified, I don't think there are any easy ties."

He added: "It's very difficult at this stage to see who will be the form teams in February."

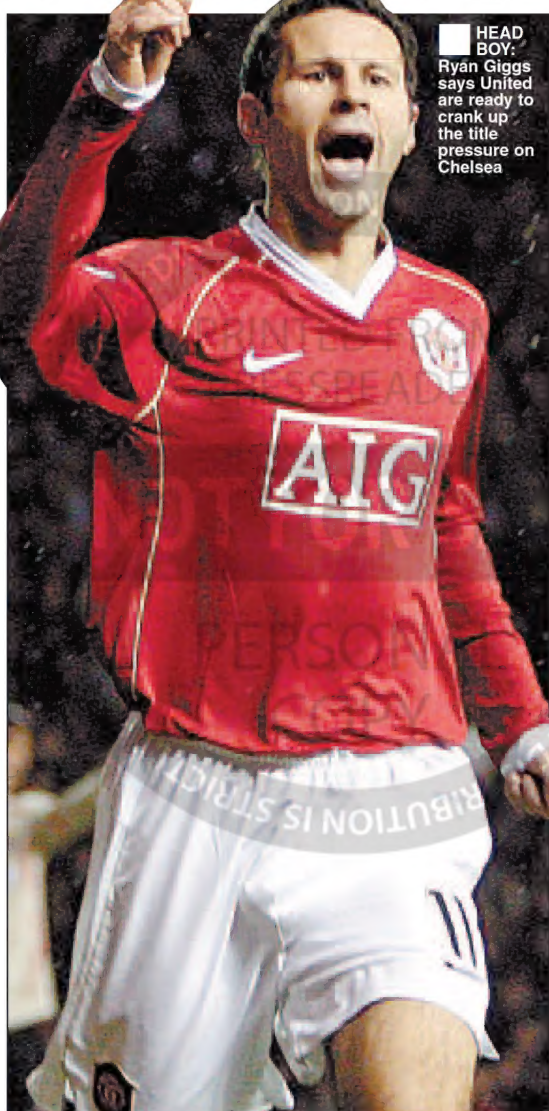
"You can get injuries, suspensions, loss of form." "But now we can just focus on the Premiership and forget about Europe for the next few months."

Gabriel Heinze, set to start the Manchester derby after Patrice Evra hobbled out of the Benfica game, backed Neville's claims that United have the squad to be crowned kings of Europe.

The Argentine defender said: "If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't be here working for that goal."

"I consider us to be one of the biggest teams around and I consider that we've got as good a chance as anyone to win the whole thing."

Danny Old Game: P74



**HEAD BOY:** Ryan Giggs says United are ready to crank up the title pressure on Chelsea

## Giggs' challenge

From Back Page

not have a better opportunity all season to open up such a huge gap on Mourinho's reigning champions. But Giggs is aware City will be desperate to wreck United's title ambitions.

Giggs added: "It's a great game to be involved in. You never quite know what is going to happen, that's what makes it so special."

United go into what could be a hugely significant weekend on the back of a confidence-boosting 3-1 win over Benfica.

Giggs, who scored one and made another against Benfica, reckons Europe's elite will be anxious to avoid United when the draw is made a week today.

He said: "If we are still in the same form when the knockout stages are played no-one will want to play against us. Nobody is going to relish coming to Old Trafford in the form we are showing."



BRAWL: Boateng (left) and Zokora

## Jol: You foot bill

by ALISTAIR GRANT

MARTIN JOL last night warned his brawl boys: Get involved in another punch-up and you'll pay the FA fine yourselves.

Tottenham boss Jol is raging after Spurs were hit by an FA charge of failing to control their players following the spat with Middlesbrough on Tuesday.

Didier Zokora was sent off after sprinting to confront Boro captain George Boateng, whose red card over the incident was rescinded yesterday.

Jol says the FA warned Spurs about their conduct just two weeks ago, after Hossam Ghaly's red card in the explosive draw at Blackburn on November 19.

## Simple

The manager fears being fined by the FA, which hit Arsenal for a massive £175,000 after the infamous 2003 Battle of Old Trafford.

Jol said: "Next time we'll pay the fine and it's not just £5,000 or £10,000. When we got a warning a couple of weeks ago, I told the players 'if you do it again, the club will get a fine'. So the players knew the situation."

Jol also blasted Boro skipper Boateng – who claimed he was attacked by four Spurs players – saying: "He elbowed Zokora, as simple as that."

Striker Robbie Keane is out for six weeks with a knee injury but fellow frontman Mido is back for tomorrow's game with Charlton.

Jermaine Jenas is out for a month with an ankle problem.

## Boro Boat ban relief

by IAN MURTAGH

MIDDLESBROUGH boss Gareth Southgate was last night spared a big headache when skipper George Boateng's red card at Spurs for clashing with Didier Zokora was quashed.

The Dutch hardman was facing a four-match ban after being sent off for violent conduct after the clash with Zokora, which led to a 20-man flare-up between the two sets of players.

With fellow midfielder Lee Cattermole already banned for tomorrow's home game against Wigan, Southgate would have had a massive void to fill in the Boro engine room.

But the club's appeal against Boateng's dismissal was upheld and Southgate said: "I don't think my players did too much wrong – they were in there to beat things up."

Boateng said: "I'm very grateful to the FA disciplinary panel." Boateng would have sat out crucial games against Wigan, Fulham, Charlton and Everton had the sending off stood.

## Information Station

### CRICKET

International Series (1-day)  
Faisalabad: West Indies 151 (40.5 overs), Pakistan 154-8 (48.2 overs), Pakistan bt West Indies by 2 wickets.

### GOLF

European PGA Tour Dunhill Championship (Mpumalanga, South Africa) – 1st Round (GB & Iri unless stated, par 72): 68 P Archer, W Da Haas (S Afr), C Schwartzel (S Afr), A Tadini (Ita), O Wilson; 69 R Cabrera (Spa), A Collart, D Higgins, A Michell (S Afr), S Nash (Aus), S Van Vuuren (S Afr), S Walker; 70 J Axgren (Swe), B Barham, P Edberg (Swe), I Hutchings (S Afr), A McLardy (S Afr), L Oosthuizen (S Afr), B Piers (S Afr), M Pilkington, R Rock, D Terblanche (S Afr), 71 L Bond, H Buhrmann (S Afr), A Gruesz (S Afr), S Drummond, C Fisher, T Fisher (S Afr), W Geyer (S Afr), V Groenewald (S Afr), J Kamte (S Afr), B Lamprecht (S Afr), G Lockert, G Muller (S Afr), H Otto (S Afr), A Raitt, T Whitehouse; 72 A Butterfield, D Carter, A da Silva (Brazil), R Echenique (Arg), E Els (S Afr).  
World Cup (Barbados, par 71) – Fourballs: 65 Germany (B Langer/M Siem), 67 Colombia (C Villegas/M Marzal), 68 Australia (J Senden/M Hensby).

### SNOOKER

UK Championship (Barbican, York) – 2nd round: S Maguire (Sco) bt J Swail (NI) 9-8, S Lee (Eng) bt R Lawlor (Eng) 3-0, M Williams (Wals) bt G Green (NI) 9-7, R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt R Walden (Eng) 9-8, S Davis (Eng) bt J Burnett (Sco) 9-5.

### TODAY'S DIARY

#### BASKETBALL

BBL Championship: Sheffield Sharks v Guildford Heat (7.30pm), Springfield Honda Newcastle Eagles v Scottish Phoenix Honda Rocks (7.30pm).

#### BOXING

British lightweight title (Alexandra Palace, London) – L Meager v J Thaxton.

#### CRICKET

One-Day Series (4th International) Fatullah: Bangladesh v Zimbabwe (3.30pm).

### GOLF

European PGA Tour Dunhill Championship – Leopard Creek GC, Mpumalanga, South Africa: Barbados World Cup – Country Club Course, St James Barbados; Australian PGA Championship – Hyatt Regency Coolumb, Queensland, Australia.

### MOTOR RACING

A1 Grand Prix (Sentul, Indonesia) – Qualifying.

### RUGBY UNION

(7.30pm unless stated)  
Heineken Cup  
Bourgnon v Leicester .....  
European Challenge Cup  
Bayonne v Bristol (6pm) .....  
Connacht v Montpellier (6.30pm) .....  
Glasgow v Narbonne .....  
Montauban v Newcastle (6pm) .....  
Newport-Gwent v Bucuresti .....

### YESTERDAY'S SPORTSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Bradford, 7 Ralph, 8 Faldo, 9 Arsenal, 10 Port, 12 Niki, 14 Warren, 17 Shola, 18 Ashia, 19 Anderson.  
DOWN: 1 Bulls, 2 Athens, 3 File, 4 Reiko, 5 Preakness, 6 Tottenham, 11 Casals, 13 Keown, 15 Rohan, 16 Vale.

FIVE FOR FUN ANSWERS  
1 Louis Saha, 2 Theo Walcott, 3 Cruiserveight, 4 Salford, 5 Rubens Barrichello.

## HOUL: BE MY HERO

GERARD HOULLIER wants a reunion with Milan Baros to help solve a striker crisis at Lyon.

Houllier is trying to strike a deal with Aston Villa boss Martin O'Neill to take Baros on loan for the rest of the season – with the option of a £5m deal in the summer.

Former Liverpool boss Houllier signed Baros, 25, during his spell at Anfield.

### Offer

A foot injury kept him out for the opening part of this season and he hasn't scored a Premiership goal.

But Houllier was Baros' experience for the last 16 phase of the Champions League.

Baros is also wanted by Hamburg, who had a £7m offer for him turned down in the summer.

O'Neill will be willing to listen to offers if it helps him raise funds for his No.1 transfer target, Spurs striker Robbie Keane.



# I NEED LUCAS AID



NEILL: Part of Kop swap plan

RAFA BENITEZ plans to make Lucas Neill his first new year signing – without spending any of the millions likely to be ploughed into Liverpool from the proposed Dubai takeover.

The Anfield boss wants to swap Blackburn defender Neill with Stephen Warnock, 24, and believes he can get the Australian despite him being linked with Barcelona, Chelsea and Newcastle.

## Jump

Neill made it clear that he would jump at the chance to join the FA Cup holders in the summer but Blackburn dismissed a bid of £1.5m for the 28-year-old as derisory and demanded £4m.

Then the two clubs were unable to agree valuations for the two players when an exchange deal involving Neill and left-back Warnock, currently recovering from groin surgery, was discussed.

But Benitez knows that Blackburn can no longer place such a high valuation on

by CHRIS HARPER

Neill, whose contract expires in little more than six months, and Rovers seem resigned to losing a player who cost them £1m from Millwall in 2001.

Chairman John Williams said: "Lucas has said he would like to look at fresh challenges. It is between us and him whether he leaves in January or at the end of the season."

Benitez is waiting to see what size war chest he gets if the takeover by Dubai International Capital is completed before the end of the year.

DIC's £450m bid includes £170m for buying control, £80m for clearing debts and £200m to pay for the new 60,000-seater stadium.

But DIC chief executive Sameer Al Ansari said earlier this week: "We hope we can agree a deal that will provide the club with the funds it needs, both on and off the pitch."

## SERIOUSLY football Striker's up for



ALL SMILES: Emmanuel Adebayor gets a celebration pat off Thierry Henry

## Cashley's in the firing line

**From Back Page**  
back loads of stick at Stamford Bridge.

Cole, nicknamed 'Cashley', attacked his former club for offering him £5,000 a week less than promised on a new contract, and hit out at a number of his old Arsenal teammates in his book, which flopped.

Lehmann, 38, thinks it's ridiculous for Cole and other English players to write books halfway through their careers.

Asked if he had read it, he said: "To be honest, I am not fancying books from players who are 24 or 25 who would like to tell me about their big experience. When I consider my age, I would have a lot to tell."

"It seems to be an English habit to come out with books that really nobody needs. When I retire, I will probably write a book. Of course I will understand him getting stick

from Arsenal fans. He should get it. That's football and makes it exciting. "He was a vital member of our squad and we had big success with him so he has to expect some negative emotions towards him."

Lehmann also questioned whether Cole has improved as a player since his summer move.

## Rival

He added: "I always liked Ashley. We had a big success together and I am really looking forward to playing against him. We will see if he is getting stronger in the Chelsea squad or not."

There is no love lost between the two clubs and the Cole factor will increase the intensity on Sunday.

Arsene Wenger and Jose Mourinho had a war of words last season, with the Chelsea boss accusing his rival of being a "voyeur".

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a derby war as he gets ready to rumble with Terry and Co

# WE'VE GOT ALL GUNS BLAZING

## says Arsenal's MANU ADEBAYOR

ARSENAL hitman Emmanuel Adebayor has warned Chelsea to get ready for a 'war' at Stamford Bridge.

The Gunners' striker is cranking himself up for the physical battle he expects when coming up against John Terry for the first time.

And he claims Arsenal will be spurred on with the extra incentive of trying to win for injured Chelsea old boy William Gallas – an 80 per cent doubt for the game.

Adebayor knows what it takes to score on the big stage for Arsenal, grabbing the winner against Manchester United at Old Trafford and the opener against arch-rivals Spurs last weekend.

So he is **not lacking confidence in his ability to lead the line in the absence of skipper Thierry Henry.**

Adebayor is relishing the challenge of blunting Chelsea's title hopes while breathing new life into their own now that Arsenal are through to the Champions League knockout stages.

He said: "I love the physical challenge. I like the pressure of big, important games like Manchester United and Tottenham. This Chelsea game is the same.

"This is a great chance for me. It will be another war but the important thing is to be ready for battle.

### Fear

"I've never played against John Terry and Ricardo Carvalho. I have played against a lot of big defenders like Ferdinand and Vidic. It is a big challenge and you have to find out for yourself if you can perform against the big players.

"As a player you always want to achieve something in life. We are going to play Chelsea on Sunday and we have to believe the Premiership is not over. We have to keep playing right until the end.

"We know Sunday will be one of the biggest games in England, even the world, so you just have to enjoy it and show no fear. Hopefully we will win.

"We have to be ready mentally and have to put up a real challenge to our opponents.

"You could see against Tottenham and Porto that we had a lot of players out but we still have a good team, good players and we are playing together as a family.

"We know Thierry was somewhere watching against Porto and we had to do the job for him, as well as William. We are proud to be through to the knockout stages.

"We will have to play for William on Sunday and do the job for him. He is one of our very important players. But with him not there in the side we will have to win.

"As a player, you have to have a lot of dreams and we will be aiming to do to Chelsea what we did to Manchester United earlier this season. It will be very difficult and very tough as we are playing against



by **DANNY FULLBROOK**

one of the best defenders in the world in John Terry.

"They also have good players in Ashley Cole and Didier Drogba, who can score at any moment. I hope we will win."

Henry was outspoken last week about the fact he expects manager Arsene Wenger to be active in the January transfer window.

But the Gunners boss has said he will stick with the same squad and Adebayor feels it is necessary to repay Wenger for the faith he has shown in them.

He said: "The fact the boss has said that is very important. That shows he has the confidence in us and we have to prove he is right to have that.

"If a boss says he does not need to buy any players it means that he is happy with those he has. We have to show him we are happy to be here and we have to win a lot of games.

"We have to play for him and put all our heart into our performances.

"We sometimes play well but we also miss a lot of chances and goals this season. It is part of life but we have to put it right."

Arsenal stand-in skipper Gilberto is delighted his side have bounced back since losing to Fulham and insists against Chelsea his team have to continue proving they can survive without Henry.

The Brazilian said: "We know what we have to do to win this game against Chelsea. It's not going to be easy, always when we go there it's a difficult match.

### Easy

"Everyone's trying to do their best (without Thierry), he's very important for us, the leader of the team, the captain but I think we have shown our character in the games we have played (without him).

"Against Chelsea it will be the same. We need to give 100 per cent concentration.

"We have a chance, like we did against Man Utd and Tottenham when he wasn't there and we did so well in those games. Now we must do the same.

"In five days we've had two difficult matches to save our season. Both games were good preparation to play Chelsea. We'll try to narrow the gap. We'll do our best but it's not going to be easy."

Of his new role in the side, Gilberto said: "I'm enjoying being captain.

"It's a lot more responsibility for me but I'm very proud of being captain of Arsenal in Thierry's absence.

"I think Arsene believes in me quite a lot to choose me as captain."

**NET GAINS:** Spurs' Paul Robinson looks on as Adebayor scores last week



### TOP SIX

Barclays Premiership									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Man Utd.....	16	13	2	1	35	8	41		
Chelsea.....	15	11	2	2	25	8	35		
Arsenal.....	15	7	4	4	25	12	25		
Portsmouth..	16	7	4	5	21	14	25		
Liverpool.....	16	7	4	5	19	15	25		
Reading.....	16	8	1	7	19	21	25		



